

California GARDEN

MARCH-APRIL 2001

Volume 92 No. 2

\$2.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

In Mar. and Apr.

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN is sponsoring several interesting classes there and some trips and tours. For information: 805/682-4726.

Mar. 1 Thurs.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
2nd Annual Preview Gala, Award Ceremony, Gourmet Buffet Dinner, Preview Display Gardens of Garden Masters 2001. 6:00 p.m. \$75 per person. Del Mar Fairgrounds 760/630-7307.

Mar. 2-4 Fri.-Sun.

GARDEN MASTERS 2001 Spring Home/Garden Show. Outstanding Garden Exhibits, Speakers, and Daily Events. Del Mar Fairgrounds. Fri. noon-7:00 p.m.; Sat. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. \$10 760/630-7307. www.springhomegardenshow.com

Mar. 3 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Mar. 5 Mon.

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM 2000-2001 Carlsbad Women's Club. 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 door. 760/749-9608.

Mar. 9 Fri.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE BOTANICAL SOCIETY 12th Annual Turf Management Seminar. 6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Pre-registration recommended, \$55 in advance or \$60 at door. 619/660-4262.

Mar. 10 Sat.

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
California Nativescapes Botanical Garden Guided Tour at San Diego Wild Animal Park. 10:00 a.m. Free with admission. 858/487-2629.

Mar. 16 Fri.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY.
Orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, and China are featured at the Zoo's Orchid House. Free with Zoo admission.

Mar. 16-18 Fri.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
55th Orchid Show and Sale. Fri. 6-10 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. General admission \$5, children under 12 free. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. 619/660-9810 or www.sdorchids.com.

Mar. 17 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Mar. 3 for details.

Mar. 17-18 Sat.-Sun.

UNITED PLANT SAVERS Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Annual Conference "Planting the Future," A Conference on the Cultivation and Preservation of Native Medicinal Plants. Cost \$60. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Sunday, "Organic Farm Day," takes place in Carlsbad at 10 a.m. Cost \$10. For directions and additional information, call Gail or Greg Smith, 760/726-1204, e-mail eorganic@znet.com, or www.plantsavers.org.

Mar. 17-18 Sat.-Sun.

UC IRVINE ARBORETUM WINTER BULB FESTIVAL "Prelude to Spring." Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on UCI North Campus. Non-members \$2, members free. 949/824-5833.

Mar. 17-18 Sat.-Sun.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL-Chapter 119
33rd Annual Spring Show: Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free. 619/223-8879.

Mar. 18 Sun.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL-Chapter 119
Cultural Show. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Includes lecture by Robert Craft M.D. "A Foreigner in Japan." Demonstrations, music, and exhibits. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 102. Free. 619/223-8879.

Mar. 19-23 Mon.-Fri.

COLORFUL DAFFODIL DAYS BOUQUETS
Volunteer drivers are needed to help deliver millions of daffodils to businesses, schools, and homes during the week of March 19-23. The 18th Annual American Cancer Society Daffodil

(continued on page 36)



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for 91 Years

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We welcome articles, photographs, drawings, and ideas from amateurs or professionals. Deadlines for a next issue are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. We do not pay for articles or artwork. We cannot guarantee the safe return of material. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. Submissions must be double spaced and/or on a computer disk from IBM or compatible, in WordPerfect 5.1. DOS. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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VOLUME 92

NUMBER 2

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

MARCH-APRIL 2001

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COVER Photograph by James Dery of *Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide' a small, single, bright red flower.

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BALBOA PARK VISITORS CENTER, HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY, 1549 El Prado, San Diego CA 92101
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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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"HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR", CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

Days campaign raises money for cancer research, education and patient services. Drivers can devote as much or as little time as they can afford during the delivery week and can be assigned locations within their own neighborhoods. For additional information, please call 619/682-7422 or www.cancer.org.

Mar. 23-24 Fri.-Sat.

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB presents "ART AND FLOWERS" A show of floral designs interpreting the paintings of local artists.
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. San Carlos Branch Library, 7265 Jackson Dr., San Diego. Free.

Mar. 23-25 Fri.-Sun.

SANTA BARBARA ORCHID SHOW
56th Annual International Orchid Show. Earl Warren Showgrounds Exhibit Building, Highway 101 and Los Positas Rd. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. General admission \$8, Seniors \$6. 805/687-0766.

Mar. 24 Sat.

CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA 26th Annual Congress featuring lectures and banquet.
805/969-4536.

Mar. 24-25 Sat.-Sun.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY Cutting Sale. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. Free. 619/443-4795.

Mar. 31 Sat.

SAN DIEGO HOME GARDENING SEMINAR
Sponsored by Master Gardener Association. University City High School, 6949 Genesee Avenue. 8:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Registration deadline Mar. 20. \$32.00 for 4 classes.
858/694-2860.

Apr. 2 Mon.

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM
2000-2001 Carlsbad Women's Club. 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 Door.
760/749-9608.

Apr. 6 Fri.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS will host Gourd Art Class. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$35 members, \$45 non-members. Early registration encouraged. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas.
760/436-3036.

Apr. 7 Sat.

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE Fifth Annual Gardeners' Market

Plant Sale. 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the west Oceanside Wal-Mart store, 2100 Vista Way at the Jefferson exit. 760/643-0177.

Apr. 7 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See Mar. 3 for details.

Apr. 7-8 Sat.-Sun.

EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101.

Apr. 7-8 Sat.-Sun.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Annual Flower Show and Plant Sale. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. Corner of Avenida de Acacias and La Granada, Rancho Santa Fe. Free.
858/756-1554.

Apr. 10 Tues.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY Monthly meeting 7:30 p.m. Jerry Stewart will speak on dwarf geraniums. Free. Casa del Prado 561-7074.

Apr. 14 Sat.

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
California Nativescapes Botanical Garden Guided Tour at San Diego Wild Animal Park. 10:00 a.m. Free with admission. 858/487-2629.

Apr. 20 Fri.

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB 13th Annual Spring Gardens on Tour. Poway and Rancho Bernardo 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. \$10 tax deductible donation benefits California Nativescapes Botanical Garden in the San Diego Wild Animal Park. For information call Dorothy Frisbie 760/741-0829.

Apr. 21 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See Mar. 3 for details.

Apr. 21 Sat.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Third Annual Self-Guided Garden Tour in historic Mission Hills featuring 25 gardens. Advance tickets: \$10, day of event \$15. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour starts at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton, San Diego. 619/291-8800.

Apr. 21-22 Sat.-Sun.

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION AND THE CITY OF CORONADO present "2001: A Floral Odyssey," Sat. 1-5:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Plant sale on Sat. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Spreckels Park, Orange & 6th. Admission \$3.

Apr. 27-28 Fri.-Sat.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB presents "Thank You Kate," A Tribute to Kate Sessions Flower Show and Sale. Fri. 2-6 p.m.,

Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Masonic Hall,
1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego. Free.

Apr. 28-29 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB 37th Annual Spring Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Bonsai trees, pots, accessories, and plants for sale. Free.

Apr. 28-29 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY 73rd Annual Show. Balboa Park Club Building, Balboa Park. Exhibition entries received Sat. 6:30-9:30 a.m. Doors open Sat. 1-5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Includes educational speakers and consulting rosarians. \$2.50 General admission. 619/334-1339.

May 4-5 Sat.-Sun.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN in Claremont, California presents the fifth Symposium on California's Horticulturally Significant Plants "Out of the Wild and into the Garden." Registration: \$245 earlybird/\$295 after March 15. Call 909/626-1917 or visit www.rsabg.org.

May 4-6 Fri.-Sun.

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. Fourth Annual "Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tours." 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. all three days, seven self-guided tours of beautiful habitat gardens. Cost \$10. Festival includes garden vendors, live bird exhibits, educational seminars and more. Sat.-Sun. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Special highlight of 3,000 live butterflies in 1,000 sq. ft. walk-in enclosure. Sat. evening 6:00-8:00 p.m., "Twilight Waterfront Jazz Concert and Fiesta Dinner." Cost \$22 per person, \$40 per couple by Apr. 20. For information, please call 619/445-8352.

May 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

SAN LUIS OBISPO BOTANICAL GARDEN 10th Annual Garden Festival in El Chorro Regional Park. Sat. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$5 general admission, \$4 SLO Botanical Garden members and seniors, \$1 children 6-12. Info: 805/546-3501.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or (www.qbgardens.com). General Admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

GARDENING CLASSES

JOYCE GEMMELL

6-WEEK COURSE

Varieties and culture of deciduous fruit trees, citrus, and some tropicals. Cane berries, strawberries, and varieties of grapes culture by climatic zone.

March 26-May 7

Fruit Tree, Vine and Berry
Monday 6:00-9:10 p.m. \$15.
619/401-4122
Foothills Adult Center, Room 53.
1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon

BETTY NEWTON

10-WEEK COURSE

Landscaping: Palms, small trees, and vines for landscaping, avocado-citrus care, dealing with fungus, flowers and ferns for shade, popular perennials, flowering tropical and subtropical trees.

Beginning Mar 27 Tues.

Grossmont High School. 6:20 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Room 51. 1100 Murray Dr. La Mesa. \$22.
619/644-8218 or 619/401-4122

Beginning Mar 29 Thurs.

Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon.
Room 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. \$22.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for MAY-JUNE issue is MARCH 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

POLLEN . . .

Pollen is the dust-like or granular material found on the anther at the tip of the stamen of a flower. It is the male part. It is usually yellow but can be white, brown, red, or purple. Many people are allergic to it, and flower pollen can stain clothing. Pollen can exist for thousands of years in the soil.

In the past few years the development of new devices and techniques has expanded the information available about plant life that existed in prehistoric times. One of the most interesting techniques is the use of pollen found in the soil. When an archaeological site is excavated, layers are removed millimeters at a time. If bones, artifacts, etc. are found, this is recorded. Any material containing carbon can be used to determine the date. After the excavating is done, soil samples are taken from the exposed wall. These are tested for pollen content. Pollen can be used to identify the plant. The approximate date can be determined by the layer in which the pollen is found. Climate can be determined by the types of plants able to grow in the area. (Because pollen is often insect or wind carried it indicates an area not a specific spot.) This science is called *palynology*.

Pollen contents of peat bogs, lake sediment, etc. are used to help date fossils found.

TOMATOES . . .

There are several new tomatoes developed that mature in lower temperatures. Seedling plants have been available since February. You should have tomatoes by May if

you planted one of these new varieties.

Many San Diegans reported having tomatoes ripen outdoors through December this year. Check with your nurseryman; there are many new varieties. Statistic takers report that tomatoes are the most popular home-grown vegetable.

FERTILIZED SOILS . . .

Developed for container gardeners, there are some potting soils that come pre-fertilized. All the gardener has to do is fill the pot, add water, and plop-in the plant or seed. In the January *Consumer's Report* it was indicated that higher vegetable and flower yields were obtained from pre-fertilized potting soils tested than from soils that were traditionally fertilized.

Container gardening experts say the secrets to success are: large and deep pots, regular fertilizing, consistent watering. If the pre-fertilized soil works, the secrets can be reduced to two.

BLUE HYDRANGEAS . . .

If you can't remember the chemical to add to the soil around your white or pink hydrangeas to turn them blue, it's aluminum sulfate. Use as directed on the package. April is the best month to use.

TREE PLANTING . . .

Check a California plant book for characteristics of trees before you plant. Many nurseries now have informative tags attached that list ideal growing conditions and mature size of the tree. You do not want to plant a tree that will become huge in the wrong place. (It is pricey to have a big tree

removed.) A good rule-of-thumb is no tree should be planted within 8-10 feet of a building.

ARBOR DAY . . .

Arbor Day has been the official day for planting trees in the USA since 1872. It was started in Nebraska because the countryside had been denuded of trees by removal of trees to create open space for farming, for building homes, and for firewood.

The holiday was adopted with enthusiasm and it is traditionally celebrated at school ceremonies.

The national day is the last Friday in April, but since planting times vary in different parts of the country, each state chooses its own day. California uses March 7, the birthday of the famous plant breeder Luther Burbank.

Luther Burbank (1849-1926) developed hundreds of new plants. His most famous are new prunes, plums, raspberries, blackberries, apples, peaches, and nectarines. He developed the Burbank Potato, many squashes, peas, and the spineless cactus. He wrote books about his methods that became the authority on the subject.

He moved to Santa Rosa, California in 1875. He is honored because so many of his new plants were developed while he lived in the state.

CUT FLOWER SOLUTION . . .

'Tis the start of the season of flower shows. A suggested solution to extend the life of cut flowers is:

- (1) fill container half-full of water
- (2) fill half-full of 7UP (with sugar)
- (3) add 1 teaspoon of bleach to every quart of solution.

By Betty Newton

YESTERDAY-TODAY-AND-TOMORROW PLANT

WHEN PEOPLE SEE THIS shrub in full bloom they absolutely swoon—even people normally not interested in plants. Such people may never have heard the botanic name, *Brunfelsia pauciflora*, but will nod when you say it is also called “Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow.” The name (very naturally) comes from the fact that the flowers open purple, then fade to lavender, and then later, white. And there they are—all on the bush at once in April.

This particular *Brunfelsia* is more fragrant than a gardenia! I knew there were two types of this species, but it turns out there are three. Focus on what seems the biggest plant first, *Brunfelsia pauciflora*. It has the potential of growing to eight feet. Grown from in full sun to full shade, this flowering shrub will cover itself with one-and-a-half-inch flowers if it has had new growth. Ideally, on the coast you grow it in sun but inland in more shade. It does not take the cold of high elevations since it is native to Brazil.

The leaves (alternate on small branches) are elliptic, sometimes fatter, and smooth-edged. It is almost leafless in cold winters. Some references tell us that *Brunfelsia pauciflora* has three cultivated forms. You have seen *B. pauciflora* ‘Macrantha’ at the nurseries with larger flowers and leaves. And find in growing it that you need extra humidity. “Good near the coast or in an atrium!”

The limb and twig structure on these plants is very ordinary, with no lines to make a designer rapturous. I have seen ‘Macrantha’, or royal brunfelsia, weep attractively. Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow deserves to be in more Southern California gardens. These plants, having come from the subtropics, need thirty or forty percent of the soil mix to be crumbly organic matter. For each cubic foot of soil you prepare, include two tablespoons of slow release fertilizer (like Osmocote 18-6-12).

Brunfelsia easily develops the yellowish leaves that show iron chlorosis. This nutrient lack will show if salts build up in the soil, so repotting with a combination of new potting mix and native soil may be a good idea. For a plant in the ground, you can bury cups of powdered soil sulfur to change leaves slowly to a good green.

There is still another *Brunfelsia pauciflora* cultivar

with quite different characteristics. *B. pauciflora* ‘Eximia’ [or ‘Floribunda Compacta’] is a smaller shrub, with smaller leaves (1½ to 2 inches long instead of 3 inches) and *no fragrance*. It blooms a lot more—anytime of year. In the garden, the texture of the smaller leaves gives a furry quality next to the ordinary, bigger yesterday-today-and-tomorrow. ‘Eximia’ will reseed in the garden! You will have many smaller shrubs to plant out, perhaps repeating it near camellias. Consider using narrow-leaved *Cordyline stricta* and mondo grass nearby.



Brunfelsia pauciflora

But the most fun of all is the glorious yesterday-today-and-tomorrow that you can feed all through fall into winter coaxing the leaves to be over three inches long and then bloom in its amazing fashion. Then, surely, it's time for a party. □

Betty Newton has taught landscaping and flower gardening classes for many years for Grossmont Adult Education. She also wrote for the San Diego Union-Tribune for seventeen years.

Illustration by Cherie Ann Gossett.

A DIVERSE LANDSCAPE

BY HERMAN S. LOWENBERG

[Editor's Note: Driving through the neighborhood of Willis Road in Fletcher Hills west of El Cajon Valley, you see homes that are nicely landscaped and well cared for but nothing exceptional. That's true until you come to a certain two, side by side. One of those is done with drought-resistant, often new plants, like three round *Chitalpa* trees. The other is an eye-opener! It shows what can happen if you let your imagination soar. Here owner-designer, Herman Lowenberg, tells how he created that scene.]

THE LANDSCAPE HERE AT 2124 Willis Road evolved from a drab, boring mix of junipers, pine trees, and decorative rock, to a lush, diverse example of two completely different environments. The west half of the front yard takes you into the arid Sonoran desert with yucca, palm, aloe, and cacti planted around a sandy wash. The eastern half sends you into the lush tropical jungles of the world with a multitude of palm, cycad, and *Euphorbia* species from Australia, Africa, and South America.

In the beginning, the yard was completely stripped, removing existing plant, rock, and hardscape. The original soil was a combination of cobble and clay—so soil preparation for the new landscape was very important. The entire area was rototilled adding large amounts of gypsum to break up the clay and fertilizers to add nutrients. To sculpt the area and give proper drainage, giving the incoming new plants a chance to develop good root systems, twenty yards of amended topsoil were imported. The new elevation changes allowed for subtle hillocks and natural-looking paths that enhance the garden. The arid-plant side received a special mix of bank-fill sand, decomposed granite, and amended topsoil. This gave the arid-area plants excellent drainage that prevents them from rotting or becoming

infested with fungus.

The hardscape I chose did not entail elaborate concrete walkways, planters, etc. It was installed with a budget in mind. Railroad ties create barriers and steps. Adobe bricks laid on sand make up the walkways. Extensive use of boulders, smaller rock and sand from washes made for natural looking areas. Drip irrigation is used throughout the entire landscape thereby watering with minimal waste. Mulch aids in preventing excess evaporation between watering. Low-voltage lighting enhances the appearance of the garden into the night. I was fortunate to be able to do all the work myself. This greatly reduced the overall cost.

In plant material choice and location, many parameters should be considered. Which way does your house face? Do you get frost, high heat, or wind? How much area will each specimen cover? What will its mature form be? You do not want to be looking at a mass of sticks, (trunks) in years to come. Or, for that matter, to have your hardscape overtaken by plant material. Always consider what a tree or shrub will look like in 10, 15, 20 years.

For example, I have a southern exposure. My



Extreme left, above center, *Idra columnaris*, *Fouquieria columnaris*; left of center, *Calibanus hookeri*; bottom left, *Lampranthus (Oscularis) deltoideus*; lower center, *Echinocactus* sp.; center, *Busera microphylla*; top right, *Brahea armata*



Left top, *Phoenix roebelinii*; left center, *Encephalartos transvenosus*; left bottom, *Aloe* sp.; right center, *Howea forsteriana*; right top, *Rhapis excelsa*.

arid side plantings love it, but my tropical side needed years of acclimation. The combination of direct sun and windy afternoons made some palm specimens look burnt and tattered. Over time, some plants and trees will acclimate to a new position. I have thirty palm trees and fifteen cycads in my front yard alone. I have deliberately planted slow-growing, medium-height specimens next to faster growing tall specimens. This helps hide some trunks and adds body to the understory. As the taller, faster-growing specimens gain height, they also provide a protective canopy for the more sensitive plant material.

Many flowering shrubs also can be planted to add color and break up the multiple trunk plantings. The good thing about palms and cycads is they can be readily moved to suit your needs. The key to a good landscape design is definition. Plant specimens can be more appreciated if they are kept from growing into each other or covering up the hardscape. Revealing the shape of the plant in conjunction with its surroundings enhances the beauty of each specimen.

Everyone wants an instant landscape. Palms, cycads, and even desert plants can be very costly if purchased of any size. You are paying for time. Some

specimens I have, could, at their present size, go for thousands of dollars. However, the largest specimen I have planted has been from a 15-gallon pot. This has given the tree a chance to acclimate and develop a root system in this soil. My garden is almost 11 years old and it has been rewarding to watch everything grow. I look back at photos of a few years ago and can really see a change. Some palms now have as much as four to five feet of brown trunk with crown and fronds extending up to over twenty feet.

I consider this a dynamic garden. In nature plants grow, die, and are replaced by other species. Violent storms change even the topography, bring in boulders and wash away others. I enjoy moving and adding plant material as I find new specimens, and modifying the hardscape. It brings me closer to the feeling of these kinds of landscapes where I first saw them—in nature. □

Herman S. Lowenberg is a corrosion engineer for Helix Water District. He gardens in East County and has hiked in the tropical jungles of New Zealand, Mexico, and Hawaii and the deserts of Borrego, Baja California, Arizona, and Mexico. He would like to start his own landscape company.

Photographs by Betty Newton.



Left center, *Trachycarpus martianus*; left background, *Zamia furfuracea*; left bottom, *Lampranthus (Oscalaria) deltoides*; lower center, *Trachycarpus nanus*; lower right, *Cycas revoluta*; top center, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*.

CANCHALAGUA AND THE BIG BLUE TRUCK®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

IT WAS LATE SPRING of 1999, and looking toward the back of our property I noticed a splash of shocking, shocking pink. Nothing had been planted by me there. In fact, my significant other was preparing to ride the heavy blue blazer truck across that very area in an effort to crush down the long, impressive pile of dead branches that we had accumulated from intensive brush clearing.

The shocking pink color had appeared among some of the dead brush.

"Wait," I cried as the huge vehicle lumbered over the splash of color.

Unhearing, the driver drove onward, leaving partial pink devastation in his wake. As I reached the area, I saw that a few of the pink things were intact. The few small survivors were beautiful—flowers of a tremendously flamboyant purplish pink with five pointed petals. Each had a round white eye, which looked beseechingly up at me.

"Come look at these," I shouted. "Aren't they gorgeous?"

The driver got out of the truck, came over, said "uh-huh," got in the truck, started it up, and continued crushing the pile of dead stuff.

DISCOVERY

I found out later the pink things were canchaloguas (*Centaureum venustum*), and that they usually appeared in the late spring. Some years were good for canchaloguas and others were not. This happened to be a good year (if there were not any big blue trucks around).

How to describe fully that fantastic shade of pink? The charmingly written book *Hardy Californians* by Lester Rowntree says the flowers have a "giddy pink coloring." Rowntree added, "I like best to think of it starring thickly the dry grassy foothill slopes broken by *Rhus* and *Rhamnus*, or bordering a stretch of chaparral filled with the peaceful communings of wren-tits." We can deduce he was clearly impressed. On the other hand, in her book *Western Wild Flowers*, Margaret Armstrong says the flowers look "so gay and cheerful, but the color is a little crude."

You just can't please everyone, canchalogua, but you can certainly please me.

Further research showed that these sprightly annuals can range from a few inches to more than a foot high, and that they love the sun and can withstand drought. In the 1991 edition of *Gardener's Guide to California Wildflowers* by Kevin Connelly, published by the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc., Sun Valley, California, the author writes: "I have marveled at these little plants in the wild near Lake Elsinore, blooming with abandon so long after the last rain In early August . . . I looked for canchalogua's slender seed capsules and found them still green and juicy in the searing heat, still holding on to a last, precious drop of the rain that made the California countryside a garden of delight."

They can make your yard a garden of delight, too. Scatter the seed liberally in your wildflower garden, along with the seed of intensely blue desert bluebells (*Phacelia campanularia*) and appropriately-named baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) for an eye-popping color combination. If you give them water, they will bloom happily for months. Remember, however, that you may need to reseed each year, since some seed may be destroyed in the damp warm summer soil of a cultivated garden.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Canchaloguas are a member of the esteemed gentian family. In ancient times, the root of gentian (*Gentiana lutea*) was used to combat stomach and liver ailments, intestinal worms, and hysteria. Centuries later, in America, gentian root was used in commercial bitters and to flavor Moxie, an old-time soft drink. However, modern herbals advise pregnant women and those with high blood pressure against taking gentian root since it can cause nausea and vomiting.

In the early west, canchalogua was considered by both Native Americans and early Spanish settlers to be



a sure-fire remedy for fever. In fact, another common name for *C. venustum* is wild quinine. The genus name *Centaureum* comes from the Greek *kentaur* (centaur). In mythology, the centaur used gentians for medicinal purposes.

And Latinophiles will know that *venustus* means charming, which certainly describes these little pinkies. Take a hand lens when you are communing with canchalagua and notice the anthers. If they have already shed their little loads of pollen, they will be "exquisitely spiraled" according to the book *Flowering Plants—The Santa Monica Mountains, Coastal & Chaparral Regions of Southern California* by Nancy Dale. This book also has an excellent colored photo of a canchalagua in full bloom.

In the wild, in late spring or early summer, canchalagua pops up in many coastal and foothill areas ranging from places like Fallbrook to Alpine to Otay Mountain to Mission Trails Regional Park. However, in addition to viewing canchalaguas in the wild, why not see them in your very own yard, too?

EPILOGUE

The next year, although there were not as many, some canchalaguas did come up, all by themselves. I was impressed.

It was then I resolved to buy seed that fall. (Note: canchalaguas also may be planted as late as February-March if you give them supplemental water.) The only place I could locate the seed was in the Fall 1999 *Seed List* from The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants, Inc. If you are at all interested in wildflowers, call 818-768-1802 to receive their excellent catalog. Cost of the 1999 issue was \$2.50, and more than worth it. The catalog also includes planting instructions.

In the fall, I was ready. I pulverized the surface of the ground, and barely covered the seed with soil. I planned to keep the seedbed a bit moist if rains did not come as expected.

I also made sure to plant them near, around, and between some large ragged rocks on our property. Large rocks and truck tires, thank goodness, are incompatible. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

Flower illustration by the author.



The Coronado Floral Association and the
City of Coronado present

2001: A Floral Odyssey

A Standard Flower Show

Saturday, April 21, 2001 1:00 — 5:30 pm

Sunday, April 22, 2001 10:00 am — 4:00 pm

Plant Sale: Saturday, 8 am — 2 pm

Admission: Adults \$3.00

Self-guided Home Front tour

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Presents

"ART AND FLOWERS"

floral designs interpreting

paintings of local artists

March 23 & 24, 2001 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

San Carlos Branch Library

7265 Jackson Drive, San Diego

SOIL PENETRANTS

BY GEORGE JAMES

SOIL PENETRANTS HAVE BEEN available for several years, but are still unknown to many gardeners. They are made by several firms and sold under various trade names, but they all attempt to do the same thing—improve the soil structure so that both water and air can enter the soil easily and penetrate deeply.

A soil penetrant can be described as a non-ionic, non-corrosive, neutral mixture of high concentration, which breaks the molecular structure of water so that the water can flow into and between the smallest earth particles. This action breaks up the soil to allow more efficient better air, water and root penetration. This can release plant foods that are trapped in the soil.

Soil penetrants can be used in the garden any place there is a water penetration problem. Some examples are:

(1) Garden soils that are adobe or decomposed granite or have large percentages of these materials in their make-up. When such soils become dry, they form a crust that is difficult for water to penetrate. A soil penetrant in such a situation will greatly increase the penetration of water through the crust.

(2) Many gardens have sloping areas that are planted with lawn or ground covers. Deep watering is difficult because the water runs off before it can soak into the soil. A soil penetrant will cause more of the water to soak into the soil with less runoff.

(3) Soils in our part of the country often need large quantities of organic matter incorporated into them to create good soil. When organic materials are used as mulches, they often become crusted and it is difficult for water to go through them. Organic materials mixed into the soil are difficult to wet, and until they are wet and start decomposing, they do little to improve the soil. A soil penetrant is helpful in both cases because it helps the water to enter the particles of organic material and properly wet them. Organic material that is to be mixed into the soil can be soaked in water to which some soil penetrant has been added. Peat moss is one of the most difficult of the organic materials to wet. It is advisable to treat small amounts that are to be used in potting mixtures before mixing.

(4) Large shrubs and trees often develop many roots close to the surface of the soil, and if one cultivates around them to break up a crust that may have formed, those roots would be damaged. Plants in containers can develop similar conditions. In both cases, the use of a soil penetrant eliminates the need to break the crust.

(5) Older lawns, especially those with a great deal of Bermuda grass, develop a thatch of dead growth that resists the passage of water and fertilizers. A soil penetrant will enable both water and fertilizers to move through the thatch, resulting in a more attractive lawn.

(6) A soil penetrant will aid the penetration of water on a newly seeded lawn. It will reduce the possibility of the water puddling and flowing to a lower point, washing some seed with it.

(7) Planting holes that do not have good drainage, can have their drainage improved if some soil penetrant is placed in the bottom of the hole before the plant is set. Additional applications can be made from the surface of the soil at intervals afterward. This treatment will aid in opening the soil pores in the bottom of the hole so that more efficient drainage is developed.

When a soil penetrant is used, one will expect the treated plants to develop deeper roots resulting in stronger plants that have a more attractive foliage color. One can expect to save water because water will penetrate quicker and less will be lost by runoff. One can expect the soil to be better aerated, more air at the roots of the plants, which is essential for healthy growth. One can expect commercial fertilizers to be more effective because the roots of the plants will be healthier and able to utilize the fertilizer efficiently.

Soil penetrants are usually purchased as a liquid material, but some are available as a dry powder; one is as effective as the other. Liquid penetrants have label directions that call for a specified amount of the concentrate to be applied to a given area of soil. The recommended amount is sufficient to create satisfactory conditions in soils that are not too difficult. Where difficult soil conditions exist, a second or even a third application over a relatively short period of time will be needed to create a desirable soil condition.

A soil penetrant concentrate can be diluted with water to provide a volume sufficient for easy coverage of the area to be treated. Small areas can be treated with the concentrate diluted in a watering can, and large areas are quickly and easily treated with the concentrate applied through a hose-end sprayer. After the application, the treated area must be watered to carry the penetrant deeply into the soil. Careful watering is necessary so that the penetrant is not carried away by run-off water. Slopes and badly crusted areas may need

(continued on page 62)

GROWING LETTUCE AND OTHER SALAD GREENS ON THE COAST

BY ARTHUR DAWSON

IF YOU ARE AS addicted to salads as we are, you will want to make room in your garden for lettuce and the other salad greens. Those you buy in the supermarket look great and taste fine but, in order to keep their appearance, I expect they must be loaded with pesticides. I prefer to grow them myself because of that concern and to take advantage of the tremendous variety available through the seed catalogues. Lettuces are one of the easiest vegetables to grow in our climate, and we keep them coming on throughout the year except the hottest months of summer. We have had no luck with crisp head (Iceberg type) lettuces and not much more with romaine and so tend to stick to loose-leaf and butterhead varieties.

I start a new batch about every two or three weeks. I sprinkle some seed in a four-inch pot and thin them with scissors to six to nine plants. They are very easy to transplant when they begin to crowd each other. We begin cutting the outer leaves as soon as they are big enough to use in a salad and then use the whole plant when it begins to head up. In that way, we use the leaves before they begin to toughen, and there is a constant supply of new plants coming on. They require little space and a few plants can be inserted between the rows of larger plants that will reach full size after the lettuces have been harvested.

We have tried dozens of varieties over the years, but have settled on 'Esmeralda', a beautiful emerald green Boston lettuce (Stokes, Nichols, Park), 'Sangria', a red-bronze butterhead (Stokes) and 'Brunia', an early-maturing bronze looseleaf. 'Lollo Rossa' has attractive frilly green and red leaves that add color to a salad, but they are a bit tough. 'Ibis' is a dark purple that adds interesting color, but its leaves are also tough. 'Buttercrunch' has a great texture and taste when it is at its best, but it is less tolerant of adverse conditions than the others I have mentioned. The Australian heirloom variety, 'Forellenschuss', is bright green speckled with purple and adds a distinctive touch to a salad.

We had a terrible time with slugs in the lettuce last year but, for some reason, they have almost disappeared from the garden this autumn. It is almost impossible to keep them out of lettuce. Any that survive to get through a barrier of snail bait grow and multiply happily between the leaves. The best way to deal with them is to wash them off the leaves when they are harvested. It is not a task for the squeamish, but the loose-leaf lettuces provide no hiding place once they are separated. The leaves, once harvested and washed, will keep well for a few days in the refrigerator. We wrap them in a moist paper towel rather than keeping them in plastic bags.

Radicchio is easy to grow and it is such an attractive plant that it can be mixed with flowers in the ornamental bed. We have had the best results with 'Giulio', a compact heading type. It is started in pots like lettuce and set out the same way. The seed package states that it needs only sixty days to mature, but it takes many months to head up in our garden.

There are many other greens that are useful to add variety to a salad. Most can be handled in the same way as lettuce including frisée, escarole, mâche and tatsoi.

Roquette (arugula) is one of the easiest salad greens to grow and it adds a distinctive flavor when mixed with lettuce. I plant a row about a foot long each month in any available space and it will be ready to cut in about five weeks. There are both "cultivated" and "wild" varieties of roquette, but we prefer the cultivated. □

[Editor's note: This information is about growing in *Sunset Western Garden Book's* climate zone 24.]

Arthur Dawson is a retired physician with thirty years of growing experience.

Reprinted, with permission, from "The Spindrifter" for January 2001, the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla (California).

Illustration courtesy of Shepherd's Garden Seeds, 30 Irene Street, Torrington CT 06790.



TOMATO FIELD TRIALS 2000

by Joyce Gemmell

SEED WAS ORDERED IN FEBRUARY 2000. Seeding took place between February 14 and March 16. Transplanting between March 11 and March 16. Plants went into the field April 13 and 14. First harvest was June 16. Grown in Flinn Springs, *Sunset* zone 23.

FIFTEEN HEIRLOOM VARIETIES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Indeterminate, 80-90 days; fruit dark red, solid, smooth; plant cover good. There is a cross-bred hybrid also.

*(1)

AMISH PASTE: Indeterminate, 75 days, large, egg size and shape. Paste, good for canning; fair yield. First harvest June 19. Late blight.

(1)

BLACK KRIM: Indeterminate. 70 days. Dark brownish red with green shoulders. Leaf cover thin. Can't take high heat. Over ripens on the vine. Does better on the coast.

(1)

BOX CAR WILLIE: Indeterminate. 80 days. Large fruit, red oblate. Susceptible to late blight. Low yield.

(1)

BRANDYWINE: Indeterminate. 90-100 days. Potato leaf, cover thin. Pink, clear skin. Also red and yellow strains. Fruit large, yield moderate.

(1)

CHEROKEE PURPLE: Indeterminate, 80-90 days. Fruit pinkish-brown, flat. Plant has good cover. Yield moderate. Late blight, sunburn. Tried several times. Flavor good.

(1)

COSTOLUTO GENOVESE: Indeterminate. Flat, ruffled, deep red. Small yield due to late blight. More than one seed source.

(2)

LILLIANS YELLOW: Indeterminate, 95-100 days. Glove shaped fruit. Small, high yield. Potato leaf vine. Good, mild flavor.

(1)

LOZIER'S YELLOW: Indeterminate, 80-85 days. Fruit yellow with red internal blush at blossom end. Large, cat-face, some cracking. Good flavor.

(7)

MORTGAGE LIFTER: Indeterminate 80-85 days. Large fruit, pink. Low yield due to heat.

(1)

PINEAPPLE: Indeterminate, 90 days. Yellow-red striped fruit. Mild flavor. Low yield due to heat.

(1)

PEACE VINE: Cherry, indeterminate. Leaf loss, fruit "off" flavor. Can't take heat. Fruit gets small.

(6)

ROPRECO PASTE: Determinate. Needs support. High yield. No catalog description.

(1)

STUPICE: Determinate, 52 days. Can't take heat. Better on the coast. High yield. Small fruit.

(1)

YELLOW PEAR: Indeterminate. Very high yield. Needs support. Late blight, leaf loss. "Fun tomato."

(2, 5)

TEN HYBRID VARIETIES

BEEFMASTER: Indeterminate. VFNASt; 80 days. Went down hill in June. Low yield, late blight, sunburn. Did much better in other years.

(3)

BETTER BOY: Indeterminate, VFNASt. 75 days. Good old standby. Had leaf loss and sunburn.

(3)

BIG ZAC: Indeterminate, 80 days. Cross-bred by a New Jersey gardener (Minnie Zaccaria). Size: huge. Cat facing, fruit needs support. Try again!

(1)

CELEBRITY: Determinate. 70 days VFNTAST. Good main crop for small garden. High yield, needs support. Had first time problem due to water.

(2)

DELICIOUS: (old seed) A Burpee introduction. Disappeared from catalog. Low yield (no good)!

(1)

MILANO PLUM: Determinate. although a small plant it needs support. Very high yield, fair leaf cover. Good for paste or drying.

(1)

QUICK PIC: Indeterminate. 58 days. High yield, early. Fruit gets small in heat.

(1)

SUN GOLD CHERRY: Indeterminate. Very prolific, deep gold color. Moderate leaf cover. Fruit drops.

(1)

SUNPRIDE: Determinate, VFFA, 78-80 days. Good leaf cover, high yield. Fruit medium red, smooth. Plant needs support. Try again.

(1)

TUMBLER: Dwarf. Good for basket or raised bed. Plant 8 inches tall. Fruit size: large cherry. Doesn't last long, but good show.

(1)

Some definitions on page 52.

Source listed is not necessarily the sole purveyor of the cultivar.

*SEED SOURCES:

- (1) TOTALLY TOMATOES (POB 1626, Augusta GA 30903)
- (2) SHEPHERD'S SEEDS
- (3) PARK SEED COMPANY
- (4) COOK'S SEEDS
- (5) BOTANICAL INTEREST
- (6) SEEDS OF CHANGE
- (7) SUMMER'S PAST FARMS

IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT TOMATO

BY JOYCE GEMMELL

WHAT IS THE PERFECT tomato? "Which one is best?" they ask. Well, best for what? Best for where? Best for whom?

This year's trials taught me many things about tomatoes. Most varieties were a great disappointment. I thought the hybrid tomato varieties were going to be perfect comparison plants to some of the old-time heirloom varieties. Was I ever wrong!

These so-called perfect tomato varieties were F_1 hybrids, theoretically with all the disease resistance that can be found in tomatoes today. The fruit would be typical supermarket grade: round, red, and smooth with no cracks, lumps, or bumps! The plants' yield would be bountiful, and above all, the tomatoes would be flavorful. Why not, I had never been disappointed before!

The reality of the summer of 2000 dawned. It began with a problem or two—not unusual during a growing season. I knew the causes, how to deal with them. But suddenly as I began to list them one by one, I realized I was in for disaster!

If only I had taken pictures of those green heirloom, one pound beauties so lovingly tied up for support! They would reach at least two pounds by the time they ripened. But oh, those cat-faced bottoms. Would they smooth out?

The June gloom days burned off into the July 90 degree days and my cat-facing worries were minor compared to what was ahead. The hybrid standbys were displaying curled leaves, yellow spots, green veins with yellow blotches, brown dried edges, and blossoms were falling off with little sign of new growth! It was time to check the IPM handbook with its color photographs! As I looked from photo to photo of tomato pests and diseases, I could find most of them on my vines.

There was the early infestation of the beet army worm that made shallow dry gouges in the paste tomatoes and other small fruit varieties. The first tomato horn worm made its appearance in mid-August along with a small infestation of red spider mites. Then I noticed the diseases. This list was really worrisome. First there was powdery mildew on fully expanded leaves, which later caused defoliation of those leaves. Late blight (caused by fungus *Phytophthora infestans*) showed up during the prolonged dewy mornings with slowly rising temperatures (unusual for my area). Leaves, petioles, and fruit became infected. Eventually,



clear, hot mornings dried up the mildew and late blight spores, but the previous loss of leaf cover caused the subsequent sunburn of the fruit. When the renowned blossom end rot showed up, I chalked it up to water stress. That posed a query: Not all plants were affected, yet all rows were irrigated using drip tape emitting water at the same time and in the same amount. Also, gypsum had been incorporated into the soil before planting.

I needed some answers to this one. Well, there were several. The irrigation water had a high salt content so not enough gypsum was applied. The soil texture was inconsistent, which showed that there had been insufficient water to leach out the salts. Some varieties were more susceptible to the salts than others.

I guess I could go on and on with the problems of my year 2000 tomato growing season! That year's experience has surely shown me that not all large pieces of free land are suitable for productive vegetable gardening. The old saying "If it has a good crop of weeds, it will grow a good crop of vegetables." is not a good rule of thumb.

I have concluded that hybrid tomatoes are not completely foolproof. Heirloom tomatoes can be just as satisfactory in the home garden—with good variety selection. And finally, everyone has a bad year now and then.

Yes, I am still looking! There seems to be no perfect tomato variety. In one season or two, an old standby may seem perfect for this garden, this year. But for all time, and everywhere ... no way!□

Joyce Gemmell was in the original San Diego Master Gardeners class in 1983 and has been involved ever since. She has been teaching Foothills Education classes (see page 37) for fifteen years and lecturing and growing plants at Summers Past Farms recently.

Illustration courtesy of Shepherd's Publishing, 7389 West Zayante Road, Felton CA 95018.



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry when watering from the top.

TO KEEP all areas clear of plant clutter. Use only clean sterile equipment. Have the area well ventilated.

TO PROVIDE 12 to 14 hours of indirect lighting daily.

TO PROTECT plants from any sudden change in temperature—maintain 65-75°F.

TO POT UP babies in 2½-inch pots using a light, porous, sterile soil with good drainage.

TO PRACTICE preventive measures against insects and disease—have clean hands and clothing.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PUT down tubers to sprout.

TO CLEAN all pots and plantings of dead wood, leaves, and old debris.

TO PROTECT roots with a mulch.

TO START feeding; give ¼ strength of any good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week, ½ strength if twice a month; full strength if once a month.

TO CONTROL disease and pests by spray and bait.

TO KEEP plants moist, but not wet.

TO START new plants from leaves, cuttings, or seeds.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH watering program according to the rains.

TO GRAFT deciduous plants.

TO REPOT plants; shape to conform to the container.

TO REMEMBER deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go three to five years without repotting.

TO ADD small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparation to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.

TO WATCH for aphids and other pests.

TO WAIT until April to feed. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high phosphorus type to set flowers and fruit.

TO USE ¼-strength fertilizer spread several weeks apart, rather than using full strength only once. Measure accurately. Too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

BROMELIADS

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK plants for scale especially during spring when scale is most likely to appear.

TO TREAT plants with scale by dipping or spraying them thoroughly with a solution of Cygon 2E according to directions on the label. Drain excess solution from plant.

TO KEEP plants clean. Cut spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT your favorite plants in new potting media. This helps them to develop a healthier growth.

TO ALWAYS provide good drainage and never allow the soil to become soggy.

TO FERTILIZE only during the warm months, once a month, preferring a fertilizer high in acid. Use ½ the recommended strength on the label.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE plants for spring growth by checking soil and pot condition—transplant if needed. Soil mix should be light and water should flow through freely.

TO FERTILIZE your plants regularly.

TO START acclimating the protected plants to outdoor conditions once again, after danger of frost is gone.

TO PROTECT sensitive plants from the rain and sun; bright sun can burn indoor plants.

TO KEEP newly purchased plants separated from your collection until they show signs of good growth without any pests or disease; treat any pest promptly; watch for snails, also. A wet winter might bring you

rodents; mice and rabbits are cute, but no cacti are safe from their nibbles. Protect your plants.

CAMELIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP picking up spent blooms and petals to prevent petal blight.

TO SHAPE your bushes now by pruning. Once flowers fade, cut back to increase bushiness, branching, and more flowers next year.

TO CONTINUE to feed iron and 2-10-10 fertilizer for dark green leaves and root development.

TO LOOK for aphids and loopers; if found, spray with malathion.

TO START to feed using a program with cottonseed meal.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLACE tubers in starting medium such as vermiculite or sand. Keep in a warm place to sprout; beware of too much moisture.

TO PREPARE the planting area by adding humus and fertilizer.

TO PLANT sprouted tubers, sprout side up, six inches below ground surface, two inches from stake, and cover with two inches of soil. With little care they are easy to grow and dwarf and bedding types add much beauty to your garden.

TO MOISTEN, but do not keep wet.

TO PROTECT new growth from snails.

TO BE SURE to drive stake into ground before planting tubers.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

George French

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED epiphyllums with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

TO CHECK trellis to be sure plants are well secured.

TO GIVE plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.

TO BAIT for snails. Granules have proven effective when placed at the base of the plant. They leave little or no residue.

TO CHECK for drainage in April. Do not move plants at this time, but continue to feed for bloom; use Hi-Bloom or bloom-builder type to promote healthy buds and bloom.

TO TAKE cuttings.

TO REMOVE buds from a new plant; that energy

needs to go to the root system.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO CATCH rain water for plants in covered areas.

TO DIVIDE, repot, or add leaf mold to those plants needing it.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE vitamin B₁ after dividing; use per instructions on label.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of 3 feet.

TO APPLY fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.

TO BEGIN thinning fruit of apples, pears, and stone fruit when they are about ½" in size. Space fruit 4 to 6 inches apart or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late maturing varieties.

TO CHECK trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap or pyrethrin to protect beneficial insects.

TO KEEP ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper around the trunk and applying a barrier of Tanglefoot on it, or by scattering diazinon granules on the soil around the trunk.

TO SPRAY apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply diazinon after petals have fallen and twice more at two-week intervals.

TO APPLY sulfur dust to control powdery mildew on grapes when new shoots are 6, 12, 18, and 24 inches long. Then, every two weeks or as needed until harvest.

FUCHSIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants not done earlier.

TO PINCH new growth on plants pruned earlier. As the third set of leaves forms on new growth, pinch out the terminal set. This will result in a bushier plant.
TO FERTILIZE with any good balanced fertilizer.
TO WATCH for insects and treat accordingly.
TO WATER thoroughly the day before spraying.
TO CONTINUE taking cuttings from prunings.
TO CLEAN up fallen leaves, blooms and other trash.

GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium*)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended amount as often as needed to keep the plants growing well. As the soil becomes warmer, long-term pellets may be used.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease control, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO PRUNE ivies and zonals if they have not been pruned. Avoid cutting regals, scented, and related types because their flowers will be lost by pruning them at this time.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots regularly to produce well-shaped plants.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CUTBACK to the basal foliage some herbaceous perennial plants: mums, columbine, coreopsis, some true geraniums, ornamental grasses, evening primrose, many salvias, and Shasta daisies.

TO PRUNE garden poinsettias in March and again in early July. Share your cuttings by giving 3 foot pieces to friends and neighbors.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DIG and amend the soil in any open areas of your herbal beds and borders.

TO FEED all your perennial herbs a little compost.

TO VISIT herb nurseries for starters and seeds. Try

growing some annuals from seeds—anise, basil, cilantro, dill (abcd ...)

TO PRUNE back overgrown lavender, rosemary, thyme, lemon verbena, chaste tree, ...

TO PROTECT young plants from snails. Use organic practices, especially in an herb garden. Experiment with hand picking, beer traps, bran, copper barriers, and/or invite some possums for a midnight picnic.

TO HARVEST from our native herbs — sagebrush, white sage, black sage, Cleveland sage, yerba mansa, yerba santa, elderberry, ...

TO MAKE fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary, sage,.... Fresh or dried they make great gifts for your gourmet friends.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START feeding low nitrogen, all-purpose, and liquid fish fertilizers.

TO WATER regularly if no rain.

TO CLEAN beds and keep weeds under control.

TO WATCH for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.

TO GIVE Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TAKE advantage of our wonderful rain and plant a few more natives. It is not too late to put in a *Salvia* or two and some of the perennials. Sow some California poppy seed and other wildflower seed as the weather clears, but the ground is still moist. Don't try to plant any of the larger shrubs this late. It will be hard to keep them healthy in the summertime unless they are plants that like water.

TO FEED natives if you haven't already done so. Feed at about one half the recommended dose. Feed last years natives, but not newly planted ones. If you feed these newly planted natives, you will stimulate top growth. There will not be enough root growth to support them.

TO TAKE action against the snails and slugs that love the cool damp weather. Snail bait is a must unless you have ducks or decollate snails!

TO CHECK *Ceanothus* for the *Ceanothus* stem gall moth larva (*Periploca ceanothiella*). This tiny beast will cause a swelling of the flower buds as they develop. A systemic might work, but other than that,

you will just have to remove the infected buds. If you cut into one of the swollen buds, you will find a tiny worm.

TO ENJOY the early blooming plants, some of the *California lilac* (*Ceanothus* spp.) the red berries on the toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and blooms on some of the manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.). This year some plants will bloom very early while others will bloom later than usual.

TO VISIT Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens as well as any other site that has natives in bloom. A drive through the back country will be a pleasant experience with Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) still in berry and California lilac (*Ceanothus* sp.) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.) beginning to bloom.

TO CONTINUE planting seed of California wildflowers, such as California poppies, for later spring bloom.

TO INVENTORY your garden in order to know what you would like to plant next fall. Jot an October note on your calendar so that you will remember to take advantage of the many fall sales held in that month.

TO CONTINUE to supplement water when the rain has stopped and the ground has dried. Natives want to be watered before the point of wilting, but allowed to dry out somewhat before watering.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT *Cattleya* plants that have exceeded their pots and are showing new eyes.

TO MOVE *Cymbidium* plants that are in spike to a shadier spot to lessen fading.

TO PROTECT *Cymbidium* plants from possible hail and rain.

TO SET OUT slug and snail bait, check for red spider, scale, and mealybug. Try to keep ants out of your domain: they bring aphids and other pests.

TO CONTINUE even fertilizer feeding of *Phalaenopsis*: plants in bloom should be protected from drafts.

TO GROW the *Oncidium* alliance, *Odontoglossum*, *Brassia*, etc. with some research. Air movement, light, feeding, and good sodium-free water are some requirements for successful growing.

TO CHECK air cooler and fans; they may need oil.

TO FLUSH and reset any water filters or reverse osmosis units.

TO WATCH for plants that may get sunburned and protect them.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER deeply to encourage your bushes to produce strong stems and healthy foliage.

TO WATER roses day before feeding or spraying and again after feeding.

TO VARY the products used to provide the essential nutrients and micro-nutrients for your roses. Roses require a balanced diet to produce the blooms for which we grow them. High nitrogen will produce unusually tall bushes, which in many cases appear out of place in our home landscape, and that has contributed to too many negative comments about unattractive bushes. Along with the need for organic materials, we now recognize that nitrogen alone will seldom produce the quality and quantity of bloom we strive to produce.

TO VISIT your roses often to observe and enjoy their growth and revel in the beautiful early foliage.

TO CHECK daily for signs of unwanted pests, early signs of nutrition deficiency, and/or early weeds and grasses.

TO CONTROL aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning.

TO CONTROL thrips damage to blooms by using Orthinex (available in an atomizer spray) on blooms just as they begin to drop their sepals. Thrips become very active when the local uncared for vegetation dries up because of lack of moisture. Thrips distort the blooms by sucking the moisture from the petals and the bloom fails to open properly.

TO RECORD your garden maintenance efforts. Time does fly when you're having fun!

TO PREPARE to adjust your schedule to weather conditions. Foggy cool days are certain to encourage mildew in the rose garden and an early heat wave means you must water, water, water. To a limited degree, washing off your bushes in the early morning will delay mites and even early mildew.

TO LEARN rose terminology. Particularly become acquainted with the difference between a sucker and a basal break! A sucker is **unwanted** and a basal break is a beginning to a new cane, which is what we are trying to produce so we can cut off the old worn out canes at next year's pruning!

TO ENJOY your roses during these months, weather permitting, the months of glory for roses and rosarians.

TO ATTEND garden shows and appreciate all the wonderful plant materials that abound in Southern

California.

TO PLAN for replacement varieties of roses during the growing season by observing carefully roses in gardens in your area. Usually roses that perform well in the coastal areas will not have enough petals to produce good roses in the inland areas. Avoid roses that are susceptible to mildew.

VEGETABLES

**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME**

TO PREPARE soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them at least two weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply twenty pounds of poultry manure or fifty pounds of steer manure per hundred square feet.

TO MAKE a last planting of cool season vegetables such as leaf lettuce, beets, and kohlrabi that will mature before hot summer weather arrives.

TO SET OUT tomato transplants after danger of frost has past. Delay planting beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and squash until the soil is warm. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

**from UC Cooperative Extension Publications
NOW IS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS**

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: cabbage and eggplant.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (lima, pole, snap), beets, carrots, chard, corn, cucumbers, endive, gourds, kale, lettuce (leaf), melons (cantaloupe, casaba), okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips, peas (bush), peppers, radishes, spinach (in March), squash (summer and winter), tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon — ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, canterbury bells, carnations, celosia, coleus, cosmos, daisies (African), dusty miller, four o'clocks, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, statice, tithonia, verbena, vinca, zinnias.

COMMUNICATIONS . . .

WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.

In regards to the “**Tomato Field Trials 2000**” on page 47, the following are some definition of terms:

Determinate, or bush type, the plant’s growth is limited by development of the terminal flower bud and does not elongate indefinitely.

Indeterminate, or tall growing type, the plant’s growth continues to elongate indefinitely.

Systemic disease resistance profiles:

V = Verticillium wilt

F = Fusarium wilt

N = Nematodes (also called root knot nematodes)

T = Tobacco mosaic virus

A = *Alternaria alternata*, crown wilt

L = Septoria, leaf spot

St = Stemphylium, gray leaf spot

SOME ADDITIONS TO THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2001 ISSUE

We could have listed the *Sunset Western Garden Book’s* climate zones for these articles: “Growing Vegetables on the Coast,” page 10, zone 24; “Winter Vegetable Gardening in San Diego’s Inland Foothills,” page 11, zone 19; “East County Vegetable Gardens in January and February,” page 12, zone 23.

We did not have the information in time for a profile of the author of “Discovering Gardens in Kent.” Sharon Swildens is a Flower Show Judge with the Southwestern Judges Council (which is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.) and a past president of Lake Hodges Native Plant Club. She enjoys growing and landscaping as a hands-on gardener.

DOWN UNDER GARDENS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

YOUR TRAVELING GARDENER HAS again gone to Australia, not for the Olympics, but to visit those magnificent gardens and parks in Melbourne and the area called Red Center. In Melbourne, there is an intensive small "backyard" garden activity. Most houses in the inner part of the city are narrow and long, built on small, narrow lots. Consequently, the space for gardens is quite limited. Their climate is a rougher version of ours with much hotter and colder days and much more rain. One also has to remember that the seasons down under are reversed and during my stay there spring had sprung.

On a cool Sunday morning, I visited two private gardens that were open to the public. The first garden (see photograph) was a profusion of plants both bedded and in pots. There was a clever arcade spanning the central part of the garden with bougainvillea covering the top and sides. Since it was early spring, azaleas and rhododendrons were in their prime. Surprisingly, there was an assortment of yuccas and agaves located in corner areas. Surrounding a group of miniature palms were beds of cannas. Along one fence line was a cluster of rambling roses, yellow in color with very small profuse flowers. Parts of the walkway in shade were lined with bromeliads all in bloom. To top off this wonderful display of spring were several pride of Madeira plants in glorious bloom.

The second garden was somewhat more orderly than the first and was created by gardeners transplanted from England many years ago. Overhead attached to the house was a pergola supporting two large grape vines just coming into bloom. Beneath was a fish pond surrounded by myriads of different ferns. There even was a staghorn fern attached to the outer wall of the house. These gardeners took clever advantage

of the heat radiated by the house furnace and hot-water heater, both of which were located outside, to supply extra warmth to a dozen or more native Australian orchid plants. And of course, being English, there were a profusion of rose bushes bursting with buds and flowers. A small bed of herbs was located near the kitchen door with mainly basil, rosemary, mint, and garlic chives. The small deciduous trees were just coming into bloom and a Japanese maple showed those lovely dark bronze leaves.

Even the garden pests are similar with evidence of slugs, snails, beetles, grasshoppers, ants, aphids, and even mildew. Except for 11,000 miles of distance and an equator intervening, these gardens could be in our own backyards. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Photograph by the author.



An Australian backyard garden—pride of Madeira on the right.

TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE

BY JUDY SCHULMAN

BECAUSE GROVES OF TREES WERE not common along the Southern California coast, early Spanish explorers (A.D. 1500-1700) referred to this area as *Punto de Los Arboles*, which means "Point of Trees." They used this area as both a landmark and as a warning that they were too close to the shore in the fog. The trees themselves were referred to as Soledad Pines (Solitary Pines) by the first Americans to visit the area.

The first modern account of the Torrey pine

scientific account of the pine emphasizing the need to protect the tree from extermination. This was presented to the San Diego Society of Natural History. Persuaded by city father George Marston and botanists David Cleveland and Belie Angler, the City Council in 1899 passed an ordinance to set aside 364 acres of pueblo lands as a public park. Unfortunately, the ordinance made no provisions for protecting the tree.

After the turn of the century, the land surrounding

the park was in danger of being commercially sold. Between 1908 and 1911, newspaper woman and philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps acquired two additional pueblo lots and willed them to the people of San Diego. Representing the San Diego Society of Natural History and the San Diego Floral Association, Guy Fleming and Ralph Sumner visited the park in 1916 to conduct botanical studies. Their report of damage caused by picnickers and



Wild chaparral — Torrey pines silhouetted against the ocean.

occurred with the renaming of the tree in 1850. It was "officially" discovered by Dr. Charles Christopher Parry. This was the year that California became a State of the Union. Parry was in San Diego as botanist for the US-Mexican Boundary Survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine the boundaries between Mexico and California. Parry was a medical doctor with an interest in botany; specifically, why plants grew where they did and how Indians used plants. Parry named the tree for his friend and colleague, Dr. John Torrey of New York. Torrey was a leading botanist of his time.

In 1883, Parry revisited the area. Surprised at the lack of protection for the trees, he wrote a historical and

campers resulted in public support for the preservation of the area. The movement was spearheaded by Miss Scripps.

In 1921, Miss Scripps and the City Park Commission appointed Guy Fleming, a naturalist and landscaper, as the first custodian of the park. In 1922, Miss Scripps retained Ralph Cornell, a well-known landscape architect, to suggest a long term plan for the park. His plan called for restrictions against changing the original landscape or introducing plants or features not indigenous to the area. She also financed the construction of Torrey Pines Lodge. The architects were Richard Requa and H.L. Jackson. They applied modern

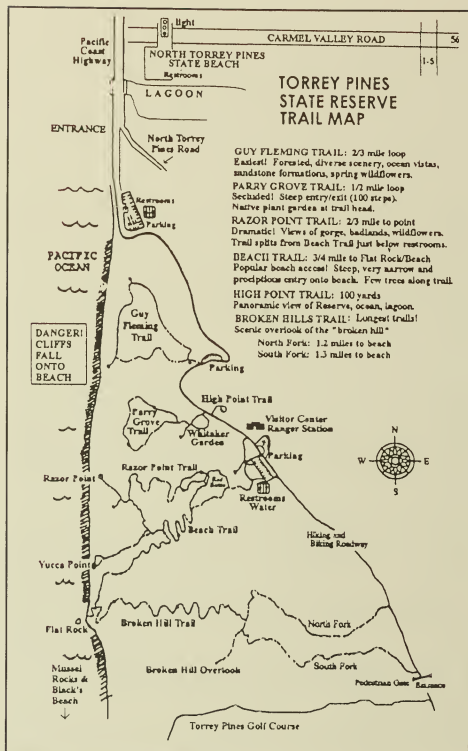
methods to the use of adobe bricks. The lodge was styled after the Hopi Indian houses of the Arizona desert.

In 1924, the city council added other pueblo lands to the park. The park included almost 1,000 acres of cliffs, canyons, mesas, and beach. With the advent of WWII, the Army leased 750 acres of Torrey Pines Mesa from the City of San Diego to be used for training purposes. In return for an occupational permit to use the lower portion of the park, the military had to guarantee that no part of the park would be damaged. Camp Callan opened January 1941 and closed November 1945.

A special city election in 1956 resulted in giving the nearly 1,000 acre park to the State of California. About 100 acres were appropriated for the construction of a public golf course. The State Park became official in 1959.

The Torrey Pines Docent Society was started in 1975. As an organization of volunteer nature guides, its members are dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the natural features of the park. In addition to staffing the Visitor Center, members also give nature walks and do special projects.

This beautiful natural park, Torrey Pines State Reserve, is open everyday from 9:00 A.M. to sunset. It is the home of the nations rarest pine tree—*Pinus torreyana*. (A few grow on Santa Rosa Island.) Free guided Nature Walks are conducted every Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. This is an easy walk that lasts about an hour. There are five trails. Pick up a map at the entrance to the park. The short “High



A younger tree

(continued on page 62)

**EL ALISAL AND ROGERS
GARDENS
SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2001**

There will be a docent-led tour of El Alisal, which was thirteen years abuilding (1898-1910). It was built by Charles Fletcher Lummis of concrete faced with native arroyo-stone and hand-hewn timbers. Charles Lummis had many interests and talents—he was a noted author, artist, historian, and archaeologist. Until his death in 1928, this spacious home was a cultural center of the Southwest. It now houses the Historical Society of Southern California.

Mature western sycamore, California bay, and coast live oak form a backdrop for the flowering plants. The two-acre garden has such diverse plants as the disease-free Howard McMinn manzanita, hybrid California lilacs, flowering currant, an imposingly large candelabra tree, palo verde, and a yarrow meadow.

After lunch (on your own), we will visit the seven-acre Rogers Gardens. Bring something to mark your purchases, because who can come away empty-handed from this great nursery?

If you have any questions, Call Ann Waters at 858/277-5004.

**El Alisal and Rogers Gardens
SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2001**

- ☐ \$33.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
- ☐ \$36.00 Nonmembers

Lunch is on your own

Make checks payable to San Diego Floral Association
Mail to San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, California 92101-1622

Please include a stamped/addressed envelope

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone Number:

PICK-UPS

- ☐ Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr., La Mesa 7:00AM
- ☐ Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 7:30AM
- ☐ La Costa Avenue Park/Ride, Carlsbad off I-5 8:15AM

**TWO NORTHERN LOS ANGELES
COUNTY GARDENS
SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2001**

Our first stop is a private garden of a little over an acre. It has rock walls, rock and concrete pathways, bird houses, whimsical stone figures, and an abundance of flowering plants to attract birds (and gardeners) of all kinds. There are dozens of abutilon (for hummingbirds) shaped into standards, iris, alstroemeria, veronica, foxglove, delphinium, annuals, three water gardens, bulbs for all seasons, dozens of ivies, a succulent patch, over 225 floribunda, hybrid tea and climbing roses, and a variety of trees.

After a box lunch (included) we will stop at the Theodore Payne Foundation properties. This Foundation, known throughout the world for its ongoing research, is dedicated to the preservation and use of California native plants. Here there are 800 plant species (100 rare and endangered), demonstration gardens, and a nursery selling the best selection of California native plants and seeds. There will be a docent-led tour up Wildflower Hill; then you may stroll the 21 acres on your own and/or select items at the nursery.

Any questions? Call Ann Waters, 858/277-5004.

**Two Northern Los Angeles County Gardens
SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2001**

- ☐ \$45.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
- ☐ \$48.00 Nonmembers

Lunch is included

Make checks payable to San Diego Floral Association
Mail to San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, California 92101-1622

Please include a stamped/addressed envelope

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone Number:

PICK-UPS

- ☐ Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr., La Mesa 7:00AM
- ☐ Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 7:30AM
- ☐ La Costa Avenue Park/Ride, Carlsbad off I-5 8:15AM



Book Reviews

A BOOK OF BLUE FLOWERS

Robert Geneve

Portland, Timber Press, Inc., 2000, 328 pages, 150 color photos, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$34.95

Blue flowers, from aquamarine to deep purple, hold a special fascination in the garden. This book presents a wide range of plant varieties that naturally bloom blue, or have been cultivated to produce flowers of this popular hue. The discussion begins with a definition of a true blue that, in the garden, often turns out to be mostly in the eye of the beholder. The author explains the scientific basis for color determination based on light wave lengths. But in daily experience, it is the effect of blue on the sensibility of the viewer that seems more significant. Does it bring on feelings of sadness or perhaps, just a spirit of tranquility? For the gardener, it is often chosen as a stunning accent for brighter shades of red, yellow, or green.

These concepts are explored and demonstrated in 150 full color photographs. Most of the book is devoted to an extensive plant list of blue flowers, with complete descriptions of propagation, species, and cultivars.

The author is a professor of horticulture at the University of Kentucky, and this book expresses an academic approach to gardening that may be of special interest to gardeners looking for authoritative information over style and enthusiasm.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENING WITH LIGHT AND COLOR:

Marylyn Abbott

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2000, 160 pages, 140 color photos, 10" x 10½", hardcover, \$35

Gardeners in mediterranean climates who pine for an English cottage garden will be comforted and encouraged by this beautiful book. Kennerton Green is the author's first garden, developed with her mother in New South Wales, Australia. There they landscaped to enhance a historic settler's cottage already surrounded by rolling lawns and mature trees, following the dictates of high temperatures, little rain, and fierce winds. At the same time, her British heritage made her long for the experience of gardening in a more temperate climate. She eventually found a long neglected National Trust property in Hampshire, England, and what she subsequently learned about the effects of natural light in these widely different geographic

areas is what this book is all about.

Basically, she found that the subtle tones of European annuals and perennials faded out in the bright light of Australia, while the bold colors of her Australian plant palette seemed garish in the soft light of England. She then developed design principles based on maximizing the visual effects of light on plants, taking into account color combinations of plants and background materials, such as walls and hedges. She likes to group strong dark colors in the shade, using a lot of one hue with just a few complementary tones to enhance it. In Australia, she uses a lot of white blooms, such as azaleas, with lush green foliage in the background.

A detailed plant list, organized by color and including specific varieties, their growing habits, and best uses follows the narrative of her garden adventure. She writes in a conversational tone, is often humorous or wry, and always enthusiastic. Glorious color photos by one of England's foremost garden photographers (Clay Perry) accompany the text. Few of us can garden at both ends of the world, but sharing this gardener's fantasy fulfillment is vicariously satisfying while possibly inspiring greater appreciation for the "greener grass" on our own side of the world!

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

100 Vegetables and Where They Came From

William Ways Weaver

Illustrated by Signe Sundberg-Hall

Chapel Hill, Algonquin Books, 2000, 288 pages, 100 drawings, 5" x 7", hardcover, \$18.95

Every veggie has a story to tell, and this handsome little volume presents one hundred of them, selected by a true aficionado. Even those who turn away from broccoli or turnips (as this reviewer does) will not be able to resist the historical and biological lore in these pages.

The author keeps a nineteenth century garden of heirloom vegetables in Pennsylvania and has been instrumental in encouraging biodiversity in seed catalogs and public gardens. He also is a culinary consultant with several cookbooks to his credit. Most importantly for readers of this latest book is the depth and breadth of knowledge that he brings in an engaging manner to his discussions of such varieties as Apricot Potatoes, Frijoles Rojas de Seda and Toad Skin Melons.

Needless to say, these are not your usual, everyday kinds of vegetables, but neither are they so exotic or eccentric as to be impractical to grow or flavorless to eat. Each has a specific attraction, not the least of which is their presentation in this book: red type highlights the names, common and botanical, of each plant, accompanied by two-color line drawings of its leaves, fruit, and flower. The descriptions include the author's own experience and the plant's history and uses. The geographical features of a plant's origins and suggestions for preparing it for the table are mixed into the author's narrative, shared as one would over the backyard fence. It is fun and easy to read, even if one has absolutely no intention of planting a row of any kind of beans. However, that mind-set just might change and if so, a source list for seeds and an extensive

bibliography is found at the end of the book.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

TIME-TESTED PLANTS: Thirty Years in a Four-Season Garden

Pamela J. Harper

Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 352 pages, 250 color photos, 10½" x 8½", hardcover, \$39.95

While we are fortunate to have a wealth of new, old, and up-to-date books available on many aspects of creating and maintaining a garden, few have been as complete as this publication.

Having been born in England and gardened there for thirteen years before moving to the coastal plain of Virginia in 1971, the author is well able to provide useful regional information and additional knowledge obtained from her hands-on gardening.

The book is divided into spring, summer, and autumn/winter. In each section are types of materials and the optimum zone for each—bulbs, trees, shrubs, vines, early perennials, and late perennials. Included are beautiful colored pictures making plants easy to identify as to size, color, and form.

Some humor included is names given to different varieties of *Ranunculus*—such as coppernob (a term used for people with auburn hair). Common names as well as botanical names and great descriptions of their growing habits are clear.

Approximately one hundred pages are used to cover each of the seasons and concludes with a Finale: transition to spring. Hardiness zone maps, conversion charts, references, and an index are included.

Unlike many new titles in recent years, this book is aimed toward those establishing gardens in permanent areas where many varieties and specimens will take years rather than weeks/months to achieve their true beauty. In today's world, where much is written about the purchase of blooming plants to produce an instant garden, frequently in small yards or back yards, this title is created for those who look forward to continuing years of seeing their plants grow, bloom, die, and come back next year even better than before. In addition close attention must be paid to the needs of these perennials to maintain their beauty for right production year after year. Dead-heading, dividing, as well as relocation when needed are a MUST for a four season garden.

Reviewed by Marianne Truby

AROIDS: Plants of the Arum Family

Deni Bown

Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 468 pages, 108 color photos, 50 line drawings, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$34.95

Not everyone is familiar with the term "aroids," but almost everyone recognizes the more common members of the family, such as Swiss cheese plant, jack-in-the-pulpit, *Anthurium*, *Philodendron*, or *Epipremnum aureum* (Pothos), familiar as a potted plant at home or office.

Aroids are plants of the arum family (Araceae). The distinguishing feature of the family is the inflorescence,

consisting of a spathe (petal-like leaf) and spadix (flower-bearing protuberance). The spathe, a modified leaf, protects the numerous small flowers on the spadix. The fruit is usually a berry. Non-flowering aroids can be difficult to recognize. There are over a hundred genera with two-thirds native to the new world. Even though *Anthuriums* are associated with Hawaii, they are native to tropical America, mainly northern South America. Aroids are predominantly rain forest plants.

This is the second edition of this work and reflects changes made to the family since the first edition in 1988. In an early chapter Deni Bown reviews the history and changes to the family. Following it is a chapter on the unusual mechanisms of reproduction. Species are then discussed by habitat: woodland, tropics, arid regions, rain forest, tropics, or aquatic. Finally each of the thirty-two genera aroids in cultivation is listed with their hardiness, cultivation preference, and their propagation.

One genus, *Calla*, has only one species *palustris*. It is an aquatic summer flowering perennial. The common name calla lily, refers to *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, generally evergreen but can be deciduous.

Reviewed by R. Cox

LAVENDER: The Grower's Guide Virginia McNaughton

Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 191 pages, 186 color photos, 8" x 9", hardcover, \$29.95

Timber Press has again published a very thorough book. It includes detailed photos of flower stalk and leaf, followed with exact measurements for plants in full flower. (Measurements used are for field-grown lavenders in dry conditions.)

The genus *Lavandula* consists of over thirty species divided into six sections each representing a geographical area. After describing these sections, the book concentrates on cultivars of *Lavandula angustifolia*, *Lavandula x intermedia*, and *Lavandula stoechas*. The lavenders most familiar to us are those native to the Mediterranean region and France.

The lavender lover will be enthralled with the color photos of lavenders grown around the world including Australia, New Zealand, and Japan as well as France, England, and North America. Propagation, growing, and diseases are briefly covered. For the novice the extensive glossary is of interest.

Reviewed by Michelle Ogden

SMALL-TREE GARDENS: Simple Projects, Contemporary Designs

Hazel White

San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2000, 119 pages, 96 color photos, 8¼" x 9", softcover, \$18.95

The how-to-do-it directions are very clear in the sections on Designing and Gardening Skills. This includes the level of difficulty, expense, location, and maintenance. Following the general information are those sections devoted to types of small trees and their effect in landscape: background or focal point, proper siting, natural groups, and pint-sized trees. Two settings that would look well in San Diego County are "Olive Orchard with Lavender" and the "Woodland Clearing, Cabin Entrance."

Reviewed by Michelle Ogden



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June 19
October 16
5:45 p.m.

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2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

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3rd Fri - 12:30 pm, Escondido Joslyn Center

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College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

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 4th Mon - 11:00 am, United Methodist Church
 of Vista, 157 Lado de Loma

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
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 Pres: Lit Phan
 1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)
 10:30 am, Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
 Information Telephone 699-8776
 2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado
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 before meeting

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 Pres: Robert Vitacco 469-3539
 2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
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 4th Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
 Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Wed
NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY
 Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422
 4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building
 Quail Gardens

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 2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

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 2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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 2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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 2nd Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

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E-mail: srocha@pacbell.net
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 Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, 18402 West
 Bernardo Drive, Rancho Bernardo
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 Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
 1st Thu - 7:30 pm -
 Canoga Park Women's Club,
 7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

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SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
 3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
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 3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
 Pres: Gary Pierwola 426-9108
 E-mail: keikiman@aol.com
 1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC
BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
 Pres: Peggy Burley 619-479-7838
 4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

PLUMERIA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
 Pres: Ted Higgins 443-4795
 4th Sun - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Feb thru Oct
 Casa del Prado, Room 104
 Information: Ken Ames
 E-mail: kenaspplumeria@aol.com

ROSE
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 1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members
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TREES
PEOPLE FOR TREES
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 FAX 687-0151

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SOCIETY
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 3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct
 Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates
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Deadline for May-Jun issue: Mar 15, 2001
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ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS by Roland Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. The book has been available only at rare book stores until now. (Going Rate \$65.00) Bill and Mike have donated the books to San Diego Floral Association. The books will sell for \$14.50 (tax included). \$10 of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They can be mailed.

If you are a newcomer to San Diego you probably do not know about Roland Hoyt. He was one of our earliest landscape architects and is responsible for the landscaping of Mission Bay, the Community Concourse, and many noteworthy gardens around the city. At the time this book was written, there was no guide for Southern California that listed plants by their needs and requirements. It is still the most reliable guide available. The later half of the book is a written description and sketch of each plant in alphabetical order. In recent years many scientific names have been changed but there is an updated nomenclature list at the end of the book. The original 1940 book was published as a pocketbook, but this is enlarged—it is a handsome hardback book 7" x 10½". The price of the book (tax included) is \$14.50. Handling and postage is an additional \$3.00.

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To enter the Reserve turn off I-5 at the Genesee turnoff. Turn toward the west, at North Torrey Pines Road turn north. There are signs — the Reserve entrance is beyond the golf course at the seashore.□

Judy Shulman is a collector of antique picture postcards of Torrey Pines State Reserve, where she has been a docent for twenty-three years. She is the historian of the Torrey Pines Docent Society.

Photographs by Roy Jones.

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All smoking and fires are prohibited in the reserve.

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No bicycles, motorcycles, or any other vehicles except baby strollers and wheelchairs are permitted on any trail.

All natural or historic features are protected by state law.

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Gardeners' Market

The MiraCosta Horticulture Club of Oceanside will hold its fifth annual **Gardeners' Market Plant sale** from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7 at the west Oceanside Wal-Mart store 2100 Vista Way at the Jefferson exit. Proceeds will be used to fund MiraCosta College student scholarships. Monthly club meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday at MiraCosta College. All are welcome. For more information call (760) 643-0177 or (760) 599-4815.

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